

We have a vision of keeping our promises to make Government smaller, to reject the status quo, balance the budget by the year 2002, protect Social Security, save and improve Medicare, and return power to the communities and to our families and the States.

Mr. President, I am pleased we are moving in this direction. I feel confident there will be a positive vote tomorrow, to make these kinds of changes. I thank my colleagues for continuing to point out the choices that we have before the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support this budget plan. I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would thank the freshman from Wyoming, the freshman Senator, for adding to this debate. He has really been there through all these days, talking about the important issues that we are facing and the tough decisions that we are going to have to make. I appreciate the fact that he has just hit the ground running in the U.S. Senate, and I am pleased he stayed tonight along with his wife, to make the remarks that he did. We appreciate it very much.

Now I would be happy to yield to the Senator from Iowa for 10 minutes.

THE PRESIDENTS "SECRET" BUDGET PLAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I thank the kind Senator from Texas for yielding.

I want to commend the Senator for her leadership in shepherding the services tonight, of making sure that the other point of view, the responsible financial point of view, is expressed here tonight, when elsewhere in this town we know there is a very antipeople pro-big Government point of view being expressed at a fundraising party for the Democratic Party.

There was a story this morning on the front page of the Washington Post. I think it has a lot of Members on this side of the aisle, and probably people across the country, just simply scratching their heads. The report says that President Clinton now has a secret budget counter-proposal. Do you know what? It will balance the budget within 10 years.

Mr. President, if this is true—and I suppose I ought to hope it is true because I have been praying for a balanced budget from this White House for a long time—it is truly an amazing story. First of all, it undercuts all the wailing we have been hearing from the White House about the effect on the economy and the public of setting an arbitrary date for a balanced budget. That is making fun of us Republicans for trying to balance the budget by the year 2002.

It seems that all we have heard for the last month out of the White House is, "What is magic about a certain date to balance the budget?" If you balance the budget you would ruin the economy. If you balance the budget you would do this to that group, or that to

another group. Now, all of a sudden in the Washington Post, the President says that he wants to balance the budget—albeit in 10 years.

I think even members of the President's own party and members of the President's party in both chambers of the Congress had earlier disagreed openly with the White House on this point. There was disagreement on what to do. Do you know what? The Members of the Democratic Party up here on the hill, they look to the President for leadership.

The message they got was to stay the course. The President said just keep to it, stay the course. That is, offer nothing in rebuttal to the Republican attempt to balance the budget. No vision from the White House; no alternative from the White House.

And, do you know what? The Members up here on the Hill were very obedient, listening to their President. So they refrained from offering their own balanced budget alternative, or any other comprehensive alternative to the Republican efforts to balance the budget.

So, the members of the Democratic Party stood idly by during this budget debate and risked their credibility because they wanted to follow their leader, our President of the United States. Now, with this new development that the President is for a balanced budget, albeit in 10 years, they, the members of the Democratic Party in the Congress of the United States in both Houses of the Congress, also are undercut by their President just like members of the White House staff have been. Just like he undercut the recent arguments of everybody on his staff that was trying to defend his position of just stay the course. Do not offer an alternative.

Second, this also says that the Republican vision of a balanced budget is right after all, and it is filling a very enormous political void. The American people know where we stand and they do not know where the other side stands. The American people know what the Republican Party stands for. They do not know what the Democratic Party stands for. They do not know because for several months, until this very day, they were told a balanced budget did not matter. They were told that we should not have an alternative, as Democrats, to what the Republicans were trying to do.

Also, there is a third aspect to this. Because, in filling that void and because the President is now coming around to accepting the premise of the Republican vision for the future, this new development is a powerful demonstration of the President's lack of leadership. Because, you know what? The lack of leadership demonstrates followership. It leaves a perception of a desperate move to be included. The President of the United States wants to be relevant, finally, in the debate for a balanced budget.

It shows that our Republican call for the other side to put up or be silent has

had an effect. It shows that we have opened up a big weakness in the other side's flank, namely its very own credibility. Because you cannot talk the talk until you walk the walk. Everyone knows that. Everyone outside of Washington.

Now, obviously the President knows it as well. The time to show relevance and to show leadership on the part of the President was last February. That is when the President proposed. The Congress is now disposing. The process has passed the President by. The ship of state has left the dock.

It is as if the President is trying to rush ahead to the next port to catch up with the ship. The problem is the ship is not scheduled to stop there. And it will not.

Mrs. HUTCHISON assumed the Chair.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I think it is clear that the leadership, the vision, and the direction for this ship of state are coming from this side, the Republican side of the aisle. It all happens to be reflected in the budget debate of the last 4 days, the amendments offered by the other side, the absence of a comprehensive balanced budget alternative from the other side. And I think it will be demonstrated by the overwhelming vote for a balanced budget tomorrow.

Now, the President of the United States, on the other hand, missed the boat. His party is still standing on the dock. He stranded them there. He asked them to wait there until he could catch up with the ship out at sea, but it is too late. We Republicans have a vision and we have a plan to steer this country to the safe waters.

I ask, where is theirs? Where is their comprehensive alternative plan to balance the budget? Where is their coherent vision? Where is theirs?

It is lacking. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. SANTORUM. Madam President, I want to pick up where the Senator from Iowa left off. I think he made some very good points with respect to where the President's budget is. I noted also the same Washington Post article today. It suggests "President to Counter Hill Budgets. Plan Would End Deficits in 10 Years."

This was not released by the White House. This was released from a private interview up in New Hampshire that was leaked out somewhere, that the President is coming up with this secret plan to balance the budget in 10 years.

It struck me. It tickled my memory, that I heard this about this 10-year plan before. It was from my first year in the Congress. I remember, as a member of the Budget Committee, I was a freshman member of the Budget Committee and then chairman of the Budget Committee, Leon Panetta, now over at the White House, came up with a 10-